

In the United States Court of Federal Claims
OFFICE OF SPECIAL MASTERS
No. 18-1423V
UNPUBLISHED

JACQUELINE STAGGERS,

Petitioner,

v.

SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES,

Respondent.

Chief Special Master Corcoran

Filed: January 22, 2020

Special Processing Unit (SPU);
Damages Decision Based on Proffer;
Influenza (Flu) Vaccine; Shoulder
Injury Related to Vaccine
Administration (SIRVA)

Bridget Candace McCullough, Muller Brazil, LLP, Dresher, PA, for petitioner.

Lynn Christina Schlie, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, for respondent.

DECISION AWARDING DAMAGES¹

On September 18, 2018, Jacqueline Staggers filed a petition for compensation under the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, 42 U.S.C. §300aa-10, et seq.,² (the “Vaccine Act”). Petitioner alleges that she suffered a left Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (SIRVA) as a result of receiving an influenza (“flu”) vaccine on October 5, 2015. Petition at 1. The case was assigned to the Special Processing Unit of the Office of Special Masters.

On January 21, 2020, a ruling on entitlement was issued, finding Petitioner entitled to compensation for her SIRVA. On January 22, 2020, Respondent filed a proffer on award of compensation (“Proffer”) indicating Petitioner should be awarded \$161,967.55, representing compensation in the amount of \$160,000.00 for Petitioner’s pain and suffering and \$1,967.55 for Petitioner’s past lost wages. Proffer at 1. In the

¹ Because this unpublished ruling contains a reasoned explanation for the action in this case, I am required to post it on the United States Court of Federal Claims’ website in accordance with the E-Government Act of 2002. 44 U.S.C. § 3501 note (2012) (Federal Management and Promotion of Electronic Government Services). **This means the ruling will be available to anyone with access to the internet.** In accordance with Vaccine Rule 18(b), Petitioner has 14 days to identify and move to redact medical or other information, the disclosure of which would constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy. If, upon review, I agree that the identified material fits within this definition, I will redact such material from public access.

² National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, Pub. L. No. 99-660, 100 Stat. 3755. Hereinafter, for ease of citation, all “§” references to the Vaccine Act will be to the pertinent subparagraph of 42 U.S.C. § 300aa (2012).

Proffer, Respondent represented that Petitioner agrees with the proffered award. *Id.* Based on the record as a whole, I find that Petitioner is entitled to an award as stated in the Proffer.

Pursuant to the terms stated in the attached Proffer, **I award Petitioner a lump sum payment of \$161,967.55, representing compensation in the amount of \$160,000.00 for Petitioner's pain and suffering and \$1,967.55 for Petitioner's actual lost wages in the form of a check payable to Petitioner.** This amount represents compensation for all damages that would be available under § 15(a).

The clerk of the court is directed to enter judgment in accordance with this decision.³

IT IS SO ORDERED.

s/Brian H. Corcoran

Brian H. Corcoran
Chief Special Master

³ Pursuant to Vaccine Rule 11(a), entry of judgment can be expedited by the parties' joint filing of notice renouncing the right to seek review.

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SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN) ECF
SERVICES,)
Respondent.)

)

RESPONDENT'S PROFFER ON AWARD OF COMPENSATION

On October 23, 2019, respondent conceded that entitlement to compensation was appropriate under the terms of the Vaccine Act. ECF No. 34. Thereafter, on January 21, 2020, Chief Special Master Corcoran issued a Ruling on Entitlement, finding that petitioner was entitled to vaccine compensation for her Shoulder Injury Related to Vaccine Administration (“SIRVA”). ECF No. 38.

I. Items of Compensation

Based upon the evidence of record, respondent proffers that petitioner should be awarded \$161,967.55. The award is comprised of the following: \$160,000.00 for pain and suffering and \$1,967.55 for past lost wages. Petitioner represents that she has not incurred past unreimbursable expenses related to her vaccine-related injury. This amount represents all elements of compensation to which petitioner would be entitled under 42 U.S.C. § 300aa-15(a). Petitioner agrees.

II. Form of the Award

The parties recommend that compensation provided to petitioner should be made through

a lump sum payment of **\$161,967.55**, in the form of a check payable to petitioner. Petitioner agrees.

Petitioner is a competent adult. Evidence of guardianship is not required in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 22, 2020